

INTRODUCTION

Early Years Education

Early Years education encourages children to investigate, create, and discover. It motivates them to take risks and to add to their understanding of themselves and of the world. It challenges children to achieve new levels of understanding of events, people, and the environment.

Through this positive attitude to learning, students in the Early Years develop competencies in language and literacy skills, thinking, and problem-solving skills, social and emotional development, independence, creativity, knowledge and conceptual development, character building, and the skills of active responsible citizenship.

The provincial curricula are clearly designed to meet these unique characteristics and learning needs of Early Years students. Integrating curricula and differentiating instruction will further assist in meeting diverse student needs.

Preface

School leaders in Early Years schools are often faced with the daunting task of reading, understanding, and remembering all of the numerous curricula for each grade level. Having access to immediate curricular information is a necessary tool for a busy school leader.

Recognizing the need to provide school leaders with a summary of the various curricula, the Council of School Leaders (COSL) and the Manitoba Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth undertook to write a resource guide to curricula for school leaders.

Purpose

This concise guide to curricula provides school leaders with a quick overview or summary of curricular information and outcomes. This information can be used as a springboard for curriculum-related discussions. This guide is not designed to provide an in-depth view of any curricula.

This guide to curricula is intended primarily for use by school leaders, but other professionals may also find it useful.

Content

This *guide* contains the following sections:

- **Compulsory Subject Areas** are listed alphabetically. For each compulsory subject area mentioned, you will find a short introduction, a conceptual framework, information pertinent to that specific subject, and general learning outcomes. A brief description of the content of a given grade is presented in the grade overview.
- **Optional Subject Areas** are listed alphabetically. For each optional subject area mentioned, you will find a short introduction, information pertinent to that specific subject, and a list of relevant resources.
- **Elements Integrated into the Curriculum** are listed alphabetically. In addition to providing the requisite curriculum components, curriculum documents also incorporate several elements. Some of the most recent documents pertaining to elements integrated into the curriculum are highlighted in the guide.

For more information on a specific subject, please reference the full curriculum document.